

Bio shop provides peace of mind

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

It's a hot day and you have been walking around base for most of it; you're thirsty, so without thought you grab a bottle of water and begin to drink. You do this because you trust what you are drinking is safe, and with good reason.

The 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight, or the BEE as they are often referred to, gives you that peace of mind by testing the drinking water here, thus reassuring us that what we're drinking is truly potable.

"There are several brands of water shipped here from different bottling plants, so we work closely with Army preventive medicine and veterinarians to ensure drinking water standards are met," said Maj. Scott Craigle, bioenvironmental engineering chief.

The bottled water here starts its examination before it even arrives on base.

"The (bottling) plants are inspected and approved by the Army," said Major Craigle. "This process requires each plant to perform water quality control tests."

After the water leaves the plant it still has



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Senior Airman Aubrey Pabon, 332nd Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, checks a water sample for flourescent bacteriological contamination Saturday using a blacklight.

one more test to pass before it can be stamped for approval.

"After plant production, bottled water is shipped to a secure location here," said Major Craigle. "We, with the help of the

Army, then perform water quality assurance tests. The end result is a safe and healthy water source for our consumption."

"Monitoring potable water quality is an

See WATER, Page 7

Robots protect EOD team



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Education continues in AOR



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Chaplains reach out



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Robots, Airmen work together to defuse unexploded ordnance

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

With the help of new faster, more agile robots, members of the 332nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit have an opportunity to keep their distance from bombs set to harm servicemembers outside the wire at Balad Air Base, and other forward operating bases.

The teaming up of man and machine is giving members of the 332nd EOD an upper hand in the seemingly never-ending battle against improvised explosive devices.



Photo by Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**

Staff Sgt. Robert Butler, 332nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal craftsman, points out the damage an exploded ordnance can cause.

Staff Sgt. Brian Robert Butler, 332nd EOD craftsman, said he looks at the robots as the unit's best friend, and can't imagine doing his job here without them.

"It's a whole new game here in Iraq," he said. "Many senior noncommissioned officers have never come face to face with an IED. Now we're all facing them together. It's the real deal."

As members of the Army search along grids outside the wire, members of the 332nd EOD wait for the call. When unexploded ordnance or any other unidentified munitions are discovered, it's time to go to work.

The robots take the place of EOD members in the field. Using a remote control, EOD members guide the robots to the location of the munitions they need to dispose of. They use the robot's extending arm and cameras to figure out the type of ordnance and the best way to diffuse it.

The job can take EOD members through an array of terrains. Before new waves of technology put smaller, faster, better-equipped robots in the hands of EOD members, large lumbering machines were used that needed to be put on trailers. According to Sergeant Butler, EOD needed the smaller machines because it was becoming harder to get the large machines through back roads where the UXOs are often located.

"We can put two of these robots in one truck before we roll out," said Sergeant Butler. "It's vital that we have more than one in case the first one breaks down. When it all comes down to it, the robots allow us to

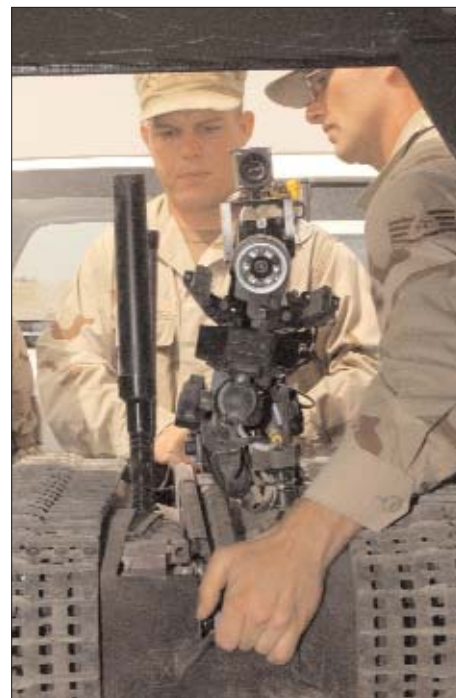


Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

Staff Sgt. Clay Sigler, 332nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal craftsman, left, and Staff Sgt. Robert Butler, EOD craftsman, unload a robot from the back of a Humvee. Up to two small robots can be loaded into the vehicle and taken on a call.

stay out of danger."

As newer generations of robots come into use, EOD members will continuously train to stay proficient at the controls. Younger Airmen are leading the way, said Sergeant Butler.

"These young guys are the masters," he said. "They get the robot, the controls and put it to use."

Airman 1st Class Isaiah Schaff, 332nd EOD apprentice, said he's well aware of the important role robots play in the war.

"If it's not a robot out there, then it's the team chief," he said. "One mistake and we lose the person with the most knowledge in the shop. It's okay to lose a robot, they're replaceable. We're not."

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The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtaillflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

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Sons of Iraq

Iraqis move 54 steps closer to freedom, independence

By Tech. Sgt. **Brian Davidson**
447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Iraq just moved closer towards freedom and independence – 54 steps closer to be exact.

Each step is represented by one of 54 elite Iraqi soldiers who have begun explosives ordnance disposal school, the first group to enter the school since the free elections in April.

The soldiers will learn how to deal with ever-increasing attacks on civilians, government officials and Coalition forces by insurgents using improvised explosive devices.

Once they complete the three-month training, the soldiers will begin taking over explosives disposal responsibilities for coalition EOD troops who are waging war on terrorists.

The Road to Freedom

The EOD training is just one more step in what has been a long road for the soldiers who are making history in Iraq. Assigned to the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, a U.S. National Guard unit, they began basic training in November and then took over sector responsibilities near the Tigris River and Baghdad.

With help from coalition soldiers and airmen, this small group of men have already proven themselves on the battlefield—and stood bravely in the face of evil.

“Not only are these soldiers ready to do whatever they have to for a free Iraq, but in doing so

they also know insurgents have put a price on their head,” said Spc. Christopher Mott, a Louisiana National Guard soldier who has been with the Iraqi soldiers since they began training. “It’s a privilege to work with these men. They want to be here. They want to learn. They want to build their country and protect the innocent.”

Some Iraqi soldiers have already made the ultimate sacrifice for their beliefs—killed by terrorists and insurgents.

One soldier was even shot through both legs while working at an entry control point, and insisted on returning to duty as soon as he was able to walk again, Specialist Mott explained.

The Airlift Experience

The Iraqi soldiers boarded a U.S. Air Force C-130 for their trip to EOD school, the first time all but a few have ever been in an aircraft.

Although there was no interpreter on hand, and few of the soldiers spoke any English, the aircraft crew was able to make the basic safety instructions understood.

Once the aircraft leveled off, some soldiers dozed and others wanted to get up and look out the windows.

“Only a few seemed to feel sick from the ride, but most were having a heck of a time,” said Sergeant Jamie Mucciarelli, deployed from the 41st Airlift Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

“It feels pretty special to help

teach them what military airlift is all about and support their mission.”

Once the aircraft landed, the flight crew took a few minutes to take some group pictures with their historic passengers, and then the soldiers put on their game faces and gathered their weapons and gear for the next leg of their journey.

They were met by Royal Air Force Special Forces and U.S. Navy Lt. Tony Brinkley, military technical advisor for the Iraqi Army EOD School.

“They’re in for some pretty intense training,” Lieutenant Brinkley said. “This is only the first class of about 10 who will be learning here in the coming weeks. We have already have Iraqi instructors, and soon the Iraqi Army will have the skills they need to defeat terrorists who threaten the future of the country.”

Hope for the Future

Although few of the soldiers have any formal education beyond the equivalent of the fifth grade, their determination to learn often impresses their instructors.

“Under Saddam Hussein, very few people were permitted



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

Staff Sgt. Jamie Mucciarelli, deployed from the 41st Airlift Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., helps Iraqi soldiers get comfortable during C-130 flight.

an education beyond reading and writing,” an Iraqi soldier said through an interpreter. “We fight for freedom to learn, freedom to speak and freedom to think.”

Speaking on behalf of his men, the sergeant explained that they serve because they are sons of Iraq and it is their duty.

The soldiers know that trying to build a free Iraq makes them targets to those who supported the old regime.

“We fight for the innocent, and for peace,” the sergeant said. “We fight so all (people of Iraq) can live without fear.”

Airmen continue career building at education center

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Inside the walls of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron education and training office where Airmen have a chance to build a strong educational foundation and continue on the path to a successful career while deployed to Balad Air Base.

In past rotations, the education and training office has had limited courses to offer Airmen.

A new rotation brings new vigor and a chance to improve the lives of Airmen serving in the area of responsibility. Seizing the opportunity, Master Sgt. Embry Gibson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing education services test control officer, is looking to expand the facility and offer new avenues to improve the lives of his fellow Airmen.

"Sometimes a young Airman had to stop his or her upgrade training here because they're required to take the end of course test," he said. "We are fortunate to have a test control officer here so they can continue to upgrade and not worry about falling behind their peers."

"We're trying to enhance the program that was already established here in Balad. "We also want to start adding college courses in the mix as well as bringing in a new learning resource center."

See **EDUCATION**, Page 7

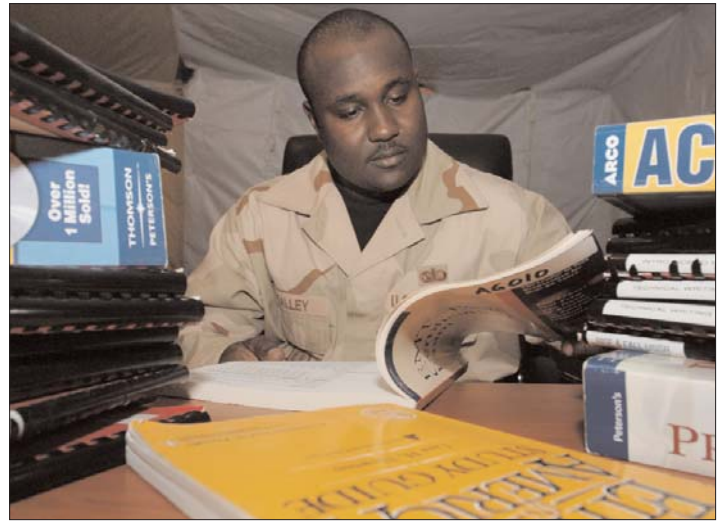


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Salley, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, sits at a desk surrounded by various study materials at the education center at Balad Air Base. The education center provides military and personal education options for deployed Airmen here.

PEST CONTROL

Insect bites can degrade an individual's quality of life as well as transmit certain diseases. Balad Air Base has sand flies capable of transmitting a disease called leishmaniasis.

People deployed to this location should have already treated their DCUs with permethrin prior to arrival in theater. Additionally, each individual should have had three tubes of DEET-containing insect repellent issued prior to deployment; this is a CENTAF requirement and is not optional.

During this AEF rotation, please encourage your troops to take the following actions for protection against insects:

- Apply DEET-containing cream to the skin, especially from the hours of dusk to dawn (including while sleeping). Many insects, such as sand flies and mosquitoes, increase their biting activity during these hours. Some insects (e.g. sand flies) do not make noise when they fly. Individuals, therefore, may not realize they are present. Additionally, many insects are capable of inflicting a bite and leaving before an individual realizes he/she has been bitten. These facts combined with the more widespread wear of the PT uniform (greater exposed skin surface area than with DCUs) during hours of darkness, makes it even more important to use insect repellent for protection.

- Treat DCUs with permethrin insect repellent. Permethrin is supplied in two different formulations. The spray form is applied using yellow aerosol spray cans; DCUs will need to be

resprayed after five to six washings. With the Individual Dynamic Absorption (IDA) kit, a DCU is soaked in a solution containing permethrin which will last the life of the DCU - follow the package directions.

Either formulation should be applied to DCUs outdoors. Permethrin should not be applied to PT gear as it does not adhere to synthetic fabric. Permethrin is never applied directly to the skin.

- Uniforms should be worn in such a way as to maximize their physical protection. That is, sleeves rolled down, pants bloused over boot tops, and undershirt tucked into pants.

- Personnel should NOT use animal flea and tick collars. These are toxic to humans.

- Personnel can acquire DEET-containing insect repellent and permethrin aerosol spray cans from Public Health located in the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group Clinic across the street from DFAC 2 (443-7304) if you would like to obtain bulk quantities of these products for distribution to your troops, then please contact/visit base supply.

- The 332nd EMDG appreciates your cooperation in protecting the health of your troops. Should you have any questions, please contact Public Health at 443-7304.

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

Chaplains do good works for Iraqi neighbors

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

While Air Force chaplains deployed to Balad Air Base are called to serve their fellow Airmen, a higher calling compels them to serve all people, inside or outside the wire.

Humanitarian missions provide chaplains with an avenue to enrich the lives of our Iraqi neighbors as well as Balad Airmen, said Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Seligman, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain. According to Chaplain Seligman, humanitarian missions accomplish both.

"It helps our Air Force personnel see the bigger picture outside the wire," he said. "They'll find out that there's more going on than the day to day of their specific job at Balad. They're part of something bigger than just themselves or their job."

"Hopefully, the Iraqi citizens realize that we are not here as an

occupation force. We're here for the sake of freedom that we want to pass on to them. It gives them a sense of American values."

Traveling to local villages can be dangerous, but Balad chaplains say they're going on these missions without blinking because they understand the importance of reaching out to the Iraqi people.

"We know the reality of the situation," said Chaplain Seligman. "We are reminded all the time we're in a combat zone, but there is a mission to perform to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. There's a freedom and sense of liberty in knowing that we have people all around us, protecting us."

According to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Wilshek, 332nd AEW chaplain, doing good works will help improve relations with our Iraqi neighbors.

See **GOOD WORKS**, Page 6



Photos by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Seligman, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, gives a local girl a bracelet during a humanitarian mission May 25. The chaplain along with volunteers from the base spent time at a local village handing out gifts as part of their mission to maintain and improve relations with our Iraqi neighbors.

GOOD WORKS, from Page 5

"Our mission helps the mission of the wing," said Chaplain Wilshek. "We're out there spreading good will among the people to win the hearts and minds of present and future generations. If the children understand we are here to help, in the long run they will be less likely to see us as adversaries."

Outside the wire, Air Force members wear two hats, or as Chaplain Seligman would say, two gloves.

"They see us two ways," said Chaplain Seligman. "We show the iron glove as gun trucks and guys with weapons head off-base, showing the Iraqi people that we mean business. But the velvet glove aspect to what we do can be seen in the humanitarian missions. It's the softer side of what America is all about."

"There is great strength in that softer side," added Chaplain Seligman. "Hopefully that side is gaining more support for what we are doing here every day."



Airman 1st Class Cory Halma, left, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, hands out gifts and candy to an Iraqi boy.



Staff Sgt. Armen Mansouri, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group vehicle maintainer, talks with local children.



Iraqi children rush from their homes towards Air Force members during a humanitarian mission at a local village.



Staff Sgt. John Shepard, 332nd AEW chaplain's assistant, plays catch with a local Iraqi boy during a humanitarian mission May 25.



Staff Sgt. Christin Bission, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, hands out candy to Iraqi children.

EDUCATION, from Page 4

According to Sergeant Gibson, the learning resource center will supply users with more computers for taking on-line college courses as well as a quiet place to study.

"Our vision is to offer more access and a quiet setting for people to get their work done," he said.

With the help of the Army's education office, Sergeant Gibson hopes to provide better service to students. The Army agreed to provide education counselors and the use of their resources to increase educational opportunities, said Sergeant Gibson.

Currently the wing education office offers DANTES and CLEP tests, which award college credits and are accepted by all schools, just like professional military education courses.

"Educational opportunities here in the wing are unmatched by those I've seen in other operations such as Operation Southern and Northern Watch," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd AEW command chief. "It is what we wanted back then but wasn't available.

"I encourage all Airmen to take advantage of the opportunities here, whether taking a PME correspondence course, career development course testing, or taking CLEP/DANTES tests to earn college credits toward personal or Community College of the Air Force specialty degrees."

Continuing professional development and staying on schedule in upgrade training is extremely important, said Sergeant Gibson.

According to Sergeant Gibson, although the mission keeps Airmen fairly busy, some additional effort in pursuing educational opportunities can pay dividends in their future, both professionally and personally.

WATER, from Page 1

important aspect of the BEE's responsibilities here at Balad," said Staff Sgt. Suzanne Hickmon, bioenvironmental engineering noncommissioned officer in charge.

The BEE does much more than just test the water supply here.

"We provide protective environmental health-related services, which provide a safe deployment for Balad Airmen," the major said. "We do this by monitoring water, soil, air and the local work environment.

We also work closely with civil engineering readiness to respond to chemical, biological and radiological incidents and unidentified hazards."

With summer right around the corner and temperatures increasing daily, the bioenvironmental shop here has an important task to perform.

"We check the heat stress conditions every hour," said Senior Airman Aubrey Pabon, bioenvironmental engineering technician. "By checking the temperature, humidity and radiant heat from the sun we come up with the heat condition, which we use to help people avoid heat stress-related injury."

The three-person shop makes frequent visits to many offices on base to provide work environment assessments.

"We are not there to get anyone in

trouble," said Airman Pabon. "We just want to give them insight on how to fix any problems, anything from personal protective equipment, hazardous chemical usage, to actual engineering recommendations.

"We are looking out for the health and welfare of the personnel here and we can't protect them from something if we are not aware that it exists."

For more information about the bioenvironmental engineering flight, call 443-7303.



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Maj. Scott Craigle, 332nd bioenvironmental engineering chief, monitors the level of acid from a bottle of water.

Diamond notes

Floppy hats must hang naturally and will be worn squarely on the head. The strap will not be used to suspend the hat on the back of the neck.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays

11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom

Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom

Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR

Tent 29th SPT BN

Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays

10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays

1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel,

11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for

Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Jason Robertson

Home station: MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron visual information office.

Hobbies: Working on my truck.

How do you contribute to the mission?

I provide photo support for the wing for events on and off base.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment?

The all-you-can-eat meals at the DFAC.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home?

Sleeping through the night without alarm bells.

Know what this is?



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of an LMR talk button was first identified by Tech. Sgt. Steven Fryer, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

Sustainer movie schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today

3 p.m. - Constantine
6 p.m. - Guess Who
9 p.m. - Guess Who

Saturday, June 4

3 p.m. - Madagascar
6 p.m. - Guess Who
9 p.m. - Miss Congeniality 2

Sunday, June 5

3 p.m. - Million Dollar Baby
6 p.m. - Guess Who
9 p.m. - Cursed

Monday, June 6

3 p.m. - Hostage

6 p.m. - The Ring 2
9 p.m. - Guess Who

Tuesday, June 7

3 p.m. - Madagascar
6 p.m. - Guess Who
9 p.m. - Million Dollar Baby

Wednesday, June 8

3 p.m. - TBD
6 p.m. - Guess Who
9 p.m. - Monster in Law

Thursday, June 9

3 p.m. - Hostage
6 p.m. - Miss Congeniality
9 p.m. - Guess Who

